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## CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM SMITH, AMERICAN MINISTER TO PORTUGAL

When John Quincy Adams, after a year's service as United States minister to Portugal, was transferred to Prussia in 1797, William Smith of South Carolina, a prominent Federalist, was appointed to succeed him. At the same time William Vans Murray of Maryland was appointed minister to Holland. Smith was on intimate terms with James McHenry, the Secretary of War, and carried on with him an extensive correspondence during the two years which followed his arrival at Lisbon. From that correspondence the following letters have been selected because of the interesting glimpses they give of society at the Portuguese court, the report of events which were occurring in the great war then being waged between France and England, and the reflections on American politics, as they appeared to an ardent partisan in European surroundings.

On Oct. 24, 1797, Timothy Pickering, Secretary of State, wrote McHenry from Trenton, where his department was situated because of the epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia:

“On Sunday morning (the 22d) I received letters from Mr. T. Bulkley dated at Lisbon Augt. 26, 27, 29. The vessel by which he wrote sailed unexpectedly; and Mr. Smith & my son being in the country to spend a few days with his father, knew not of the conveyance.—They arrived the 20th of August, after a passage of 27 days from the capes of the Delaware. They embarked at Newcastle July 20.

“Mr. B. confirms the account of Nelson's expedition to Teneriffe, & his defeat. I sent details extracted from Mr. B's letter to Fenno, on Sunday.

“The preliminaries of peace between France and Portugal had been signed & brought to Lisbon by a courier, who arrived August 25. Terms not made public. Mr. B. supposes, some cession of territory at the Brazils — some say also the island of Goa — and the payment of 25 millions of livres.”

Smith brought with him to Lisbon as his secretary, John Pickering, (1777-1846) eldest son of the Secretary of State, who had graduated from Harvard in the previous year and who had before him a long and honorable career as a linguist and a lawyer in Massachusetts. The times were stirring ones. Admiral John Jarvis with the English fleet and with the efficient assistance of Nelson had won the battle of Cape St. Vincent in the early part of 1797 and defeated the Spanish fleet. He was now blockading the remaining vessels of that fleet off Cadiz and remained on that duty until 1799. Nelson, on July 21, with four ships of the line, three frigates and a cutter had attacked Santa Cruz and after a conflict lasting several days, was defeated, and wounded in the right elbow, from the effect of which wound he lost his arm. Maria Francisca, the widowed Queen of Portugal, had been insane for a number of years and her son Dom John, the Prince of the Brazils, had administered the government since 1792, although he was not declared regent until 1799. In 1793, an alliance was made with Spain and war declared against France. Two years later the Spanish government, influenced by the "handsome but worthless" guardsman, Manuel de Godoy, Duke of Alcudia (1767-1851) signed the peace of Bash, deserting its Portuguese ally. Godoy, who had come to Madrid some ten years before the peace, had early caught the favor of the Queen Maria Louisa and through her that of her husband Charles IV, had been made prime minister in 1793, when only about 25 years of age, and dominated the affairs of Spain until 1805, when he was overthrown and fled to France, where he spent the remainder of his life. From the peace he concluded in 1795, he took the title of Prince of the Peace, by which title Smith refers to him. The prime minister of Portugal was Luis Pinto de Sousa Coutinho and, after the desertion of Portugal by Spain, he was assisting Dom John in the attempt to negotiate a separate peace with France, when Smith arrived at Lisbon. On the other hand, a strong influence in Portugal at that time favored alliance with England and continued war with France and, through the English government, the services of the Prince of Waldeck were secured to reorganize the Portuguese army. When news of this appointment came to France, the Directory concluded a

treaty with the Portuguese ambassador, Antonio de Araujo de Azevedo, but Dom John refused to ratify it and in rage the Directory imprisoned the unfortunate ambassador at the Spanish Court. Col. David Humphreys of Connecticut was the American minister to Spain, having previously spent the five years from 1791 to 1796 as minister resident at Lisbon. The two courts had been connected by the marriage of Dom John to Carlotta Joaquina, daughter of the King of Spain. In 1798, the Spanish posts on the Mississippi, such as Natchez, were given up to the United States and American envoys were ordered out of France by Talleyrand. These events and the excitement produced by the latter in the United States are alluded to in Smith's letters. He seems to have been on good terms with the English, not only knowing Lord St. Vincent pleasantly, but also being friendly with Sir Isaac Coffin (1759-1839), a native of Boston, who entered the Royal Navy in 1773, was Naval Commissioner at Lisbon from 1796 to 1793, and later rose to the rank of Admiral.

From Lisbon on Aug. 24, 1797, Smith sent Pickering the following letter announcing his arrival:

"I had the pleasure of writing you a few lines on the 20th, the day of our arrival, by a vessel bound to Alexandria, which was under sail, immediately after we anchored in the Tagus. This goes by a Vessel bound from St. Ubes<sup>1</sup> to Philadelphia. — We landed here on the 21st. & on the next day, accompanied by Mr. Bulkeley, Jun'r, I waited on Mr. Pinto, the Secretary of State, was very politely received, & informed that he would make my arrival known to the Prince, & notify me on what day it would suit his Highness to receive my credentials. As the Secretary was not in good health, & the Prince resides at some distance from Town, it will be some day next week before I am presented. When this Ceremony is over, I propose retiring to the Country for a few weeks, the City being at present disagreeable.

"On our passage we were brought to by a small flying Squadron of French Ships; two officers came on board, examined our papers & after detention of less than two hours, suffered us to

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<sup>1</sup> St. Ubes is a Portugal seaport.

proceed. They behaved with the utmost politeness & had very much the manners of gentlemen. The Commodore, on my application, sent me a certificate of our examination, to prevent molestation by Cruisers. The officers seemed very anxious for Peace, which they said would certainly take place during the Summer: in this however they may be disappointed, the accounts being rather unfavorable; but as the negotiations are conducted with secrecy, every report on this Subject must be founded on a slender basis; at one moment we hear that the pretensions of France are so extravagant that England cannot listen to them, at another, that *Trincomalee*<sup>2</sup> is the only remaining subject of controversy. It is certain that both Nations are anxious for Peace & ill able to continue the War; I am impatient to learn what part the new minister of foreign affairs, Talleyrand, will act in respect to England and the United States. You must have been as much surprised at his elevation as myself, in the present conflict of parties, by which that government is agitated, I doubt, whether he will remain long in office, as he is a shrewd, & interested politician, he will probably pursue that course which he thinks will tend to his own aggrandizement.— The Danes have met with a great loss in their able Minister, Bernstoff: he is succeeded by his Son. The day after my arrival I had a visit from the Danish Minister, Warnstet who expressed a desire to cultivate a friendship with me. He freely complained of the ill treatment his Country had sustained from the English & French during the present war, regretted much that the U. S. had not a Navy, which he said was always the first wish of Count Bernstoff;<sup>3</sup> that an alliance might take place between the

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<sup>2</sup> Trincomalee is a port in Ceylon.

<sup>3</sup> Andreas Peter Bernstoff (1735-1797) was born in Hanover, but entered the Danish service in which his uncle was a Minister of State, in 1759. He had been for several years the Prime Minister and had shown himself efficient and successful.

The son, Christian Bernstoff (1769-1835), had been ambassador to Berlin and Stockholm. He tried to preserve Danish neutrality, but could not prevent England's destruction of the fleet at Copenhagen. He was ambassador to Paris in 1811, represented Denmark in the Congress of Vienna and signed the cession of Norway to Sweden. In 1818, he passed into the service of Prussia.

neutral powers to defend their Commerce effectually in time of war.

“The Government of this country is taking active measures to defend their frontiers against Spain, & protect the Commerce against France; they have even made reprisals & have brought in here some small french privateers. They have a squadron of five Sail of the Line at Sea, & a considerable number of Troops, encamped in the neighborhood of Lisbon, consisting of English, French Emigrants & Portuguese, besides an army on the Frontier. To support the extra Expense occasioned by these preparations (in which England has aided them with £200.000 Stirl.) they have issued paper bills to the amount of 1.500.000 dollars, which are a Tender in Law in all payments: I have seen one of the bills just come into circulation; it promises payment in one year at the royal Treasury with six per cent interest; I dont understand that there is any obstacle to their free currency; if they maintain their credit, they will be extremely useful in negotiations, there being no other paper in circulation.

“There was found on board one of the Privateers brought in here, a Paper purporting to be an instruction to the Commander of the Privateer designating the mode of distinguishing a genuine American Sea-Letter & Register from counterfeit ones: this came into the hand of Mr. Bulkeley’s father, & he has permitted me to send you a copy of it. We may infer from this Paper, that there is a practice in England of forging these documents to some extent, which requires instant remedy, either by calling in old Sea Letters & Registers or by such devices as may guard as effectually as the nature of the case will permit against these frauds: We may likewise infer from the great pains & accuracy with which these Papers are described that there is an intention to respect Vessels having real bona fide Papers, & that Some Captures may possibly be attributed to a detection of forged ones. Captain Dehart tells me he has been several times boarded by french Cruisers & that after a short examination of his Papers (which has been some times done by an exact admeasurement of the Seal &c.) he has been always released.

“The consul Mr. Bulkeley, informs me that American Sea

Letters supposed to be forged, have been sold for a Trifle, & that he has no doubt of the practice.

“Col. Humphreys quitted Lisbon about the beginning of this month; his arrival at Madrid was announced by the last Post. Mr. Adams was daily expected here & I am told some of his baggage is actually arrived. As your Son writes by this Vessel I need not inform you that he is in good health, but I cannot withhold the pleasure of assuring you how much I am pleased with him: he more than realizes the account you gave of him & exceeds my most sanguine anticipations:— He suffered greatly by the Voyage for the first week, but from his looks he now appears to have been benefitted by his sea-sickness.— Altho there appears, from the circumstance I have communicated, respecting the Sea Letter, an intention some where to respect Vessels having genuine Documents, conforming to the principles France has assumed with respect to us, yet it is too true that some of their Cruisers have captured our Vessels without any pretext whatever; an instance has lately occurred of an American being carried into Spain by a French Privateer *for having on board the Colors of three different nations*; she was cleared however, but it is said that by an order from the Prince of Peace She was restored to the Captor. I am promised the particulars of this Case by the Consul, which I will forward to you:— the owner of the Vessel is, I understand, now here.—”

On the same day, he wrote a less formal letter to McHenry:

“I have the pleasure to inform you of my safe arrival here on the 20th. after a passage of 27 days from the Capes. Near the Western Isles, was espied at day break on the 15th. three ships of war which were standing to the Westward; but as soon as they saw us they tacked about & chased; they hoisted English Colors, till they came near & then they changed them to French & fired a gun. We lay to & were boarded by two officers from the Concord Frigate of 44 Guns, having on board the Commodore Papin; I addressed the senior officer in French, invited them into the Cabin, informed them who I was and showed them my passport from De le Tombe; they inquired for the Ship's papers which they examined very minutely; then they

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took memorandums & returned to their Vessel; as they behaved with the utmost politeness, I requested a Certificate from the Commodore of our Examination to prevent our being molested by Privateers, they were absent some time & on their return presented me the Compliments of the Commodore & a Certificate, setting forth that they had examined the ship & desiring all French Vessels of war to respect me. The senior officer then with an apparent bashfulness (of which I little expected) said he was charged with a little commission which was to request a small supply of Sugar having lost their Stock by a Sea; we furnished them cheerfully with half our remaining stock, happy to get off so well. They wished us a bonvoyage & took their leave, having behaved with as much respectful politeness as I ever saw from french officers under the old regime. The two other Vessels were the Nereide of 44 & the Bergere of 20. They told us that they were out eleven days, from L'Orient to the W. Indies, but we suspect that they are on a cruise about the Western Isles. Last night we were waited on by a formal gentleman in a full suit of black who came to make some inquiries about this Squadron which report had informed him was left by us in sight of the Portuguese Squadron; Mr. B. assured him that it was a mistake, as we saw no Portuguese Ships; perhaps said he asking pardon for the liberty, you were asleep when the Portug. Squad. came in Sight; he however went away at length satisfied that they were in no danger: there is a Squadron of five Sail of the Line of Portugal cruising on the Coast, & this anxious gentleman is Comptroller or Auditor of the Navy.

“Our voyage was as pleasant & comfortable as being 27 days at Sea can be; I experienced every attention from my worthy companion, Mr. Bulkeley, & am at present at his father's, whose house is in a noble situation, on the great Quay, commandg an extensive prospect of the Tagus & Shipping which are all anchored in the river, there being no wharves: this occasions a prodigious bustle of navigation, employing a vast number of boats, perpetually in motion.— Before my eyes are the four Spanish Ships taken by Ad. Jervis; they are waiting for men. That Admiral is still blockading Cadiz. Yesterday an account arrived here that Admiral Nelson with a small force from Jervis's fleet,



had made an unsuccessful attack on Teneriff & retired with loss; the Admiral had lost an arm in the engagement with the Fort, which was too strong for him.

“I have made my bow to the Secretary of State, Mr. Pinto, who knew the President in London; I am to be presented next week to the Prince & when that business is settled I shall retire to Cintra for a few weeks. I have taken the house occupied by my Predecessor who has left a great part of his furniture in it which I take — I find the weather cooler than I expected; this may be owing to my staying mostly within doors & the very cool situation of Mr. Bulkeley’s house. Since my arrival, the weather has appeared much cooler than it was in Philadelphia when I left it.

“This Govt. appears apprehensive of a war with Spain, & is raising troops for the defence of the country, they are actually at war with France & have taken some French privateers the French on their part have done them an immense injury. There is an army in the environs of this City, paid I am told, by England; there is another on the frontier paid by Portugal.

“I hope to hear from you soon; I was happy to see in an English paper an account of Murray’s arrival in Holland.”—

The next letter written on Sept. 9, 1797, tells of Smith’s reception at Court and of his desire to be sent as envoy to Spain, with which country we were having some difficulty over the navigation of the Mississippi River and the surrender by Spain of the forts she held along that stream.

“Since my last I have spent a very agreeable fortnight at the Country Seat of Mr. Bulkeley a few miles from hence, delightfully situated on the Tagus. Finding that my audience would not take place immediately & not daring to venture far from town until the presentation was over, I was happy in having an opportunity of Spending the intermediate time in a pleasant & cool retreat, where I could be ready on receiving notice to repair to town & prepare for the Ceremony. This took place yesterday; a new minister having arrived a few days after me from Prussia, we jointly borrowed the Danish Minister’s Chariot & four Servants & having hired Six Mules we proceeded in great State in

our Chariot & Six to Quelus, about 8 miles from town.. He was first presented; I was then Introduced, made the proper reverences at the proper distances & delivered to the Prince of Brazil, who represents the Sovereign, the President's Letter, making him a very concise address in French to which he replied in terms as laconic in French that he was very glad to See me & would acquaint his Mother of my arrival: I then made my bows retreating with my face to the Prince & withdrew; had I not rehearsed this Ceremony with my friend the Dane, a very good natured friendly man, I should have probably committed some fauxpas I did afterwards at my audience of the Princess, respecting which (there having been some doubt whether I shod. See her Highness) I had not been so particular in my inquiries; being suddenly ushered into a large room where I beheld a splendid sight of Ladies in large hoops, arranged along the wainscot in Solemn Silence, as cold and awful as the Wax-work; I was a little discomposed at first, but recovering myself approached the Princess, whom I discovered by her Jewels, & told her in French how happy I should be if I shod. be honored with her favor & protection during my residence at this court, to which she made some very gracious reply, which I didn't understand not having heard it; I then, wishing to be abundantly polite, & to bow to the Ladies who were paraded along the wall on my way out, unfortunately was so indecent as actually to turn my Side to the Princess & indeed very nearly turned my back; when I approached the door, I recollected my crime & to expiate it suddenly faced about & made her Highness a most profound reverence & withdrew. But when we got into the antechamber, I found that I had omitted a very essential part of the Ceremony, which was, making a Complimentary speech to the Prince's sister and his daughter, a child of four years, a circumstance I had not been apprised of: I was however consoled on learning from the Prussian Minister that he had committed the same blunder; this he attributed to the neglect of the proper officer, in not having accompanied & introduced us; as the Prussian Minister is Chamberlain to his King, has lately been presented to the Emperor, the Directory & the Court of Spain, I was comforted by his blunder, & he was comforted, after some fretting, by the

blunder of the Master of the Ceremonies. He told me he had prepared a very pretty speech for each of the ladies, but he could not distinguish them, & to add to his chagrin he altogether forgot to deliver to the Princess a message from her mother the Queen of Spain with which he was charged. — On our return from the Palaces we paid some Visits to the Officers of State & then dined with the Corps Diplomatique at the Danish Ministers. In the evening I went for the first time to the Opera; the House is a fine one, large & commodious; it has five rows of boxes; the music & Singers are excellent, but there are no women allowed to appear on the stage at Lisbon; this is done by the Queen to preserve the morals of the young Gentry: the female parts are performed by men in women's cloaths, the thing which perform'd the first female character made a very good deception, it has a remarkably fine voice. —

“The day after tomorrow I set out for Cintra for a few weeks. To morrow I dine at a Fidalgo's (Nobleman's),

“The late Treaty with France is ratified here; the English government is Said to be very much offended with Portugal for having entered into Stipulations, injurious to England; we hear nothing decisive from Lisle. —

“I wish to make an excursion into Spain — is it not probable that Spain will expect an Envoy Extry. or a Commission of two or three Envoys to settle our differences; should any arrangemt. of this kind be thought of, it will be extremely agreeable to me to go to Madrid in that Character; there will be no expense attending it. I am learning the Portuguese Language & can soon acquire the Spanish. —

“Col. Humphries & myself being on the most friendly footing, I shd. suppose he wou. have no objection to my being associated with him for a particular object & we cou. settle the business without a third Envoy.”

Just a month later Smith wrote again and referred to an event which had occurred during his Congressional career by Washington. (2 McMaster 334) When James Monroe protested against his removal from the post of minister to France, Pickering answered that the President may remove at will all officers but

judges of the Supreme Court. On May 19, 1789 Madison moved in the House of Representatives that the executive officers should be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and removable by the President alone. Smith objected (1 Debates of Congress 386, 387) saying that he thought an officer appointed for no fixed time served for life or good behavior and if he misbehaved, he could be suspended, tried, convicted and removed.

“I returned from Cintra to Town the 2d. inst. & have been for this week past very busy getting my house arranged: I have still much to do before it will be comfortable; the Situation of it is very lofty, commanding a fine prospect of the Tagus, shipping & Ocean; this however makes it very bleak in winter & requires extraordinary precautions to guard against the Cold, which is very severe here at times, tho few houses have any fire places, except in the Kitchen; I have two in my house, but one is stopped up, & the other smokes dreadfully; unless I can remedy this evil, I must follow the custom of the country which is to smother under enormous cloaks.—

“I spent three weeks at Cintra very pleasantly, the country all around it is beautifully romantic, & we had dancing twice a week. If you wish to know more of it, I must refer you to Mad. de Feire who will describe to you the orange groves & picturesque rocks &c—

“Hearing on my arrival in Lisbon that Mr. Adams had sent his furniture here (altho Col. Humphries had left in the house nearly what was necessary) I wrote to Mr. Adams that if it suited him, I would take off his hands such articles as I wanted, as I thought it would be a great risk & expence to him to send them back again; a few days ago I got a Letter from him, thanking me very politely for my offer, but informing me that he had sent nothing but Books and Cloaks, — which of course must follow him.—

“I have recd. a most friendly letter from Col. Humphries since my arrival in Portugal; this suggests to me an idea which I communicated to you in my last & which I here repeat lest that letter should not arrive. I wish to visit Madrid in the

Spring; if it comports with the policy of the Executive to adjust our differences with Spain as with France by a Commission, my going to Madrid as an Envoy (in conjunction with Col. H.) for that purpose wou<sup>d</sup>. be very agreeable to me: a third would be unnecessary, & there cou<sup>d</sup>. be little, if any expence attending the mission:— if this agrees with your idea, you will oblige me by forwarding it. The winter amusements will begin here in about a month; I cannot safely anticipate an opinion of Lisbon, as a place of residence but, as I wish to make but a short stay in Europe, & during that time to see as much of it as possible, I think by the Spring I shall be prepared to change my quarters, if I am permitted.—

“I have as yet received no letters from America, you may easily judge of my impatience to hear from thence & particulary. from you; in some New York papers I have read Talleyrand’s discourse to the National Institute on the Subject of the U. S. & the Corresponde. between the Secy. of State & Monroe, I was very agreeably surprised to find Talleyrand treat us so civilly; should he be continued in office, I hope he will not forget this discourse, which may furnish him with many useful hints. The Secy. has handled the subject of Executive discretion admirably & Monroe has made a most wretched figure: If you look into the Debates of Congress (1 Vol. June 1789,) you will find this subject fully handled; I was on that occasion on the wrong & Madison on the right side; his speeches are an excellent answer to his friend Monroe; I gave the Secy a hint of this before I left Philada.—

“I am exceedingly pleased with my young friend & Secretary; he has an excellent understanding & the most amiable disposition; he is daily improving a Sound Judgment by acquired Knowledge which he seeks with unremitted application. We began together to learn Portuguese. He outsteps me; being recently from College he has acquired the Knowledge of the Verbs, a very important trait; however tho little more than 6 weeks in Portugal, I fight my way through & converse with the Shopkeepers, workmen and Servants very flippantly; I am afraid yet to venture with the Fidalgos & gentry: I had the satisfaction yesterday of finding that I could speak the language better than an

old friend of mine (the late Consul of Louis 16th.) who has been here ten years.”

In October occurred Pres. Adams’s birthday and on the 21st of the month Smith wrote Mr. Henry an account of his celebration of that event and enclosed a report of the dinner to be published in Fenno’s Federal Gazette:

“I wrote you since my return to Lisbon, & have therefore nothing to communicate but the account of the Dinner I gave on the 19th. to the Americans here to celebrate the President’s birth-day: I was not perfectly prepared for such an occasion having been only a fortnight in my house; thinking however that it was best to do the thing even imperfectly than to let the Day pass unnoticed, I exerted myself, & made out tolerably well. I enclose you an account of the Celebration which Fenno will publish I am sure with pleasure; the Toasts are on a Separate paper for your information; you will think them not worth publishing. Among my Guests was a Captain Israel who informed me that he was the Son of the famous Israel Israel: — we were the best friends in the world; I have been told that there were two or three Jacobins present, but they all behaved extremely well; they joined in the Toasts with great zeal & we sang & were very merry; at first they were bashful, but when I set them the example of singing, they threw aside reserve & were very convivial.

“I am very impatient to hear from you; I have not recd a letter from the U. States since my departure. I have enclosed to Col. Pickering an Extract from a french paper, containing a Summary of his Correspond. with Monroe, with a note of the Editor, which Citizen M. will not like.

“Having sent the Sec’y of State all the news stirring here by this opportunity, I have only to add the warmest assurances of Esteem & regard.” . . .

The enclosure reads as follows:

“Celebration of the President’s birthday at Lisbon: ‘Thursday the 19th. October being the Anniversary of the President’s Birth, was celebrated at Lisbon by Mr. Smith, the Minister of

the United States at that Court, who gave on the Occasion an Entertainment at his Hotel at Buenos-Ayres to a numerous and respectable Company of American Captains & Citizens. After sixteen patriotic Toasts intermixed with convivial songs, the Company, having spent the day with great good humor and festivity, broke up at nine o'clock, much pleased with the occasion, which had collected together so many Americans at such a distance from home. All the American vessels in the Harbour were gayly decorated during the day & at twelve o'clock a federal salute of sixteen guns was fired by some of them in honor of the day, and at five in the afternoon was repeated. This Anniversary occurring on a day, highly distinguished in the Annals of the American Revolution by the Surrender of York-town, the recollection of so auspicious an event could not fail to increase the happiness of the Company.' "

Ten days later, Smith wrote again, complaining that he did not hear from home and telling McHenry of the social life of the Portuguese capital:

"I have so much satisfaction in recollecting your agreeable Society & feel so much interested in making you think of me a little from time to time, that, altho I have already written you Several letters from hence and have yet received not a single one from you, yet I can with difficulty suffer any Vessel to sail from Lisbon to the U. S. without giving you a friendly Jog & reminding you of your friend in Portugal. — Since my last I have been a good deal in the Beau Mondo here, as the winter amusements have commenced. To begin the week, Mrs. Pinto, the Lady of the Secretary of State has a Route every Sunday, where there is, (after all the Preliminaries of Bows, Curtsies, Compliments & Inquiries, which generally last three hours) cards and dancing; & as it is at the distance of three or four miles from Town these preliminaries, with the going and returning, consume the best of the Evening. Monday is the Opera night; but as they generally continue the same opera for two months together, none but an enthusiast in music would think of going very often, unless it were with a desire to see the Com-

pany, & that is impossible on account of the width and darkness of the Theatre.

“Tuesday & Wednesday nights there are routes at the Houses of Two Noble Persons, much in the same stile as at Mrs. Pinto’s. Thursday is the English Ball; it is every week; the room is very elegant, the music excellent, & the Company numerous & genteel; there are a number of pretty English women, who dress extremely well.— This is undoubtedly the most agreeable entertainment of the week. Friday, opera night; Saturday, a Ball at the Prince of Waldeck’s, a very genteel Officer, second in command in Portugal; he was in the Service of the Emperor & lost an arm a few years ago in Flanders; he is now by the Emperor’s permission in the Queen’s Service & it is expected will soon be Generalissimo. He has a very handsome establishment at the public expence, Besides all this there are often private dances, it being very customary to introduce a fiddle wherever any young people are assembled. There is also a Portuguese Play twice a week, but I have not yet made profit’y enough in the Language to attend it, tho I am obliged every day to converse in it with my Servants & Tradesmen. In addition to these there are other amusements which I overlooked, viz. religious festivals & Bull Feasts.

“I received this morning a very friendly visit from Ld. St. Vincent. He sat with me upwards of half an hour chatting on different subjects: among other things, he assured me, as a fact that one great cause of the success of Bounaparte’s troops was his giving every man, immedy. before the action, a Dram of *Nectar Sacré*, a liquor composed of wine & cantharides, which makes them so furious — that they are irresistible: So, Mr. Secretary at War, you’ll take the hint, & imitate the conduct of this great Land-Conqueror, as related by a great Sea-Conqueror, if you shod. be compelled to fight the Spaniards on the Mississippi: take care however you don’t pursue the practice against the Indians for as they carry their Squaws to battle with them, the effect of the Nectar-Sacre may operate on the wrong subject & be fatal to your brave Warriors. . . . Not a Vessel has arrived here from Philada. since the Dominick Terry: I am afraid some of these are taken & my Carriage into the bagain. Mr.



Bulkeley recd. a few days ago a letter from Mr. Waln. of the 4 Sept. by the way of Falmouth; I wish you would write by that channel, as the Packet arrives here from thence every ten days or fortnight, & the other conveyances are very precarious. By that Letter Mr. B. recd. the disagreeable intelligence of the yellow fever having broke out in Philada. like a good General, I trust, you made a proper retreat in time from the Scene of danger, knowing that your Life was too valuable to expose to the ravages of such an implacable foe. As the Disease is now well understood, I flatter myself the Sons of Esculapius have Soon vanquished it.”—

On Feb. 18, 1798, Smith wrote McHenry rejoicing over news from America and describing the relations of the United States with the countries of the Peninsula:

“At length I have had the pleasure of hearing from you by the Swede which arrived about a week ago. It gave me much satisfaction to hear that you were well & that you had been sensible of my absence from Philada. On my part I can assure you that in my frequent Solitary walks in the beautiful environs of Lisbon I regret that I have lost you as a Companion & ardently wish you were with me to partake of the delights of a divine Climate & to admire the beautiful Scenery of the Country:— I often wish for the society of our friend Murray who writes me that his Spirits have been at times depressed by the gloomy fogs of Holland. By the last accots. from Holland it appears that they have had also their *18th Fructidor*<sup>4</sup>; the F. Directory finding that the Dutch were very decided about a Constitution have made one for them & finding that a majority of the Batavian Convention did not relish it, they have caused the arrest of the six members of the Committee of foreign affairs (or public Safety) & twenty one other members of the Convention who are all to be transported to Cayenne; the Constitution will now meet no further difficulty from the Dutch Aristocrats. What a pity we hadn’t such means

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<sup>4</sup> On the 18 Fructidor 1797 (September four) a *coup d’etat* occurred, a conspiracy of the Royalists being feared, the Directory was given dictatorial powers and a number of members of the aristocratic party were exiled.

in '88 & '89 to *facilitate* the adoption of our Constitution; what a deal of labor & writing might have been spared!

“The present moment is unfortunately very unfavorable to the views you have suggested respecting a commercial connection with this Country: their minister at Paris is confined in the Temple & they are seriously menaced with an Invasion — it is even said that an army is collecting for that purpose & that a contract is made in Spain to Supply it with provisions *after the Harvest*: the Event is uncertain — but I rather think the appearance of an invasion is intended to extort a larger sum a greater sacrifice for peace. under these critical circumstances the whole attention of this govt. is absorbed in means to ward off the impending danger & to make peace with France without incurring war with England. But even were these circumstances out of the way there is a great & permanent obstacle to the Measure in the Policy & views of this govt. which entertains a strong Jealousy respecting it's Colonies & an unconquerable fear of admitt'g foreigners there — These shall not however deter me from feeling their pulse on the subject the first oppority. & persevering, if the smallest prospect shod. appear of success.— Some relaxation has taken place in their System on account of the scarcity of provisions; some Cargoes of rice have been well sold but it is by *special permission*. Flour they admit occasionally in the same way — this City is nearly surrounded with *Wind-Mills* the property of influential persons, whose revenues would be greatly impaired by the admission of foreign flour. Our wheat is almost supplanted by Barbary wheat, which is imported much cheaper than ours: our Embargo in 94 set them on importing Wheat from Barbary & they have found the benefit of it to our great disadvantage.

“Col. Humphries in a late Letter (Jan. 20th.) informs me that ‘the Prince of Peace had just assured him that *positive* orders had been dispatched to America for the delivery of the posts & that he might rely upon their hav'g. been carried into effect: he adds, that since his arrival at Madrid no Vessel belonging to a citizen of the U. S. which had been carried into Spain by a Spanish privateer had been condemned.’ If this be true (& we cant disbelieve the Prince of Peace) I heartily congratulate you

on the Event, which will greatly Diminish your official cares & anxiety. With respect to myself, I can only say that my Zeal for the service of my Country will be unabated in whatever place the Executive may think me most useful. It is not for me to suggest new views of policy to the governt. but it has occurred to me, that the late acquisition of the Emperor of Venice & the neighbor'g territory & the prospect of Austria becoming a naval & commercial power are circumstances likely to draw the attention of our governt, towards that Power.

“I have this moment received from Commissioner Coffin (the British naval Commiss. here) a note containing an extract of a Letter from Ld. St. Vincent of which the inclosed is a Copy — if the Earl overtakes the Spanish fleet before they enter Cadiz, he will, I think, diminish their numbers, if not, he will probably get the valuable Convoy from America, which is said to have brought the Spanish fleet out. It is possible the plan of the Spanish Admiral was to chase Admiral Barker from before Cadiz, & drive him from the Coast & then get into Brest, by which the Convoy would have got in safe to Cadiz, & the long promised junction made with the Brest fleet; but Parker, pursued by him, steered for Lisbon, off which he was immedy. joined by Ld. St. V. & then they chased in turn the Spaniards. You will see that Ld. St. V. was in charge of them on the *tenth*, & he only sailed from hence the morning of the 9th. we are in momentary expectation of further & important intellig'e.

“Yesterday an American Vessel arrived here from Bourdeaux; the Captain States that the American Envoys were ordered out of France & that the American Merchants at Bourdeaux were much alarmed; but I have recd., from the same Captain, Paris to 29 Jany. which mention nothing of the event. It is not impossible that our Envoys, tired out with fruitless expectatns. had resolved to leave Paris & retire to Holland: — their situation at Paris is certainly a very degrading one to the U. S. if it be true that they have been kept there *four months* without even an Audience.

“Yesterday an express arrived from England with dispatches to the Secy. of State; the contents have not transpired.—

“My carriage is not yet landed; I thank you for your kind attention to my memorandm. respecting it.”

Extract of a Letter from Admiral Earl St. Vincent to Commissioner Coffin, received this morning (Feb. 15) by Express from Lugus.

“Villa de Paris at Sea  
10 Feb. 98.

“We were joined yesterday by the Culloden & Alcmena, so that we have every thing with us except the Zealous. I have dispatched the Flora cutter in quest of her, & am in pursuit of the Enemy

(signed) St. Vincent.”

Shortly afterwards, Smith left Lisbon for a Spanish tour. After his return he wrote McHenry on June 23, 1798. Laurent Jean François Truguet, to whom he refers, was the French Ambassador at Madrid and the division of the department of the navy from that of war soon followed in the United States. McHenry retained the war office & Benjamin Stoddert of Maryland was made Secretary of the Navy.

“On the 2d March I left this Place for Gibraltar in the Swiftsure British Ship of the Line, had a passage of Ten days, landed there under a federal Salute from the Said ship, was hospitably received by the Governor General OHara, saw all the Fortifications, passed about a fortnight & embarked to return to Lisbon in the same Ship. Going out of the Bay, we had a fierce engagement with the Spanish gun boat in which the Swiftsure received two shots in the hull, five in the sails & had four men wounded — when we got to the Mouth of the Huebra our ship was ordered to join the fleet off Cadiz. I took that oppority. of going into that place in a flag of Truce & passed three weeks here — The Americans there gave me a handsome Dinner — I thence proceeded to Xeres, & Seville at each of which places I passed a few days, & afterwds. to Aranjuez, where the Court was then residing. I was presented by Col. Humphries to the Royal Family — became acquainted with Truguet & the rest of the Corps Dip-

lomatique — went to visit Madrid & the Escorial where I saw a multitude of fine things, returned to Aranjuez, set off from thence to Toledo, saw the manufacture of Sword-blades, & a grand religious Procession on Corpus Christi Day, passed thro Badadjoz, Elvas & C. home, where I arrived the 18th. instant.— Were I sure of my letter getting safe into your hands I would tell you many surprizing things, but as I dread the trouble of writing this hot weather many sheets of paper for the amusemt. only of a few Pirates I wish to keep my good things for your Ear. I'll postpone them till we can take a cool walk to the Skuyllkill.

“Two days ago I received your letter of the 2d. April, via Madeira; you are very good in writing me the news; with so much business on hand, I consider your devoting part of your time to write to me as a special mark of favor & kindness; remember that I dont consider myself as having a claim on you for letter for letter; write when you can spare time from your more important affairs, but remr. at the same time that your letters always afford me the greatest pleasure.

“I am happy to find that the Posts have at length been surrendered by the Spaniards; while at Aranjuez, I had a conversation with Saavedra the new Minister, on the Subject of our Treaty with Spain; it Seems that under the Prince of Peace's administn. it was attempted to persuade the King as a justificn. of their refusals to comply with the Treaty that the U. S. were indisposed to do it, & the idea had been communicated to Saavedra. Col. H. thought it a good opporutnity to bring me forward to contradict it, having been in Congress at the time; I accordy entered minutely into the subject & stated all the circumst. within my Knowledge which proved most manifestly that the U. S. had proceeded to the execution of that Treaty with wonderful promptness & unanimity. I was pleased to find that the Minister appeared perfectly satisfied with my statements. The Col. then thought it a fit oppority to intimate how much, after all this, it must grieve the govt of the U. S. to see continued there a person so obnoxious & C I was again referred to for facts within my Knowledge, when I made a second speech, dwelling forcibly on the facts which appear'd most likely to influence such a man as Saavedra, with whose character I had been previously made

acquainted by the Gentleman (a Spaniard) with whom I had travelled from Cadiz & with whom I have lived at Aranjuez, who is an old & most intimate friend of Saavedra. By the Bye, as I knew that the Minister had proposed to his friend to accept of some office, I took every opportunity of representing our Country in Such a light as has set this gentleman soliciting or at least intimating that he will have no objection to the Mission: — perhaps some good may result from it — The Gentleman is a person of the first respectability & I am persuaded would give the highest Satisfaction to our Govt. — but there will be difficulties on the other Side — the Clerks in the Bureau have a kind of prescriptive right to Succeed in these cases.

“I find you are at length likely to have some Symptoms of a Navy — (4) & that there is to be a Navy Department, but I don't learn which way your propensity inclines, whether to the Army or Navy; as you are to be subdivided into two parts, I wish to know with which part the Soul remains, with the Navy part or the Army part? are you to be Mars or Neptune? are you to wield the Truncheon or the Trident? God prosper you in whatever capacity; you have an arduous task & Sad Devils to deal with — So their Eyes are at length opened — are they not ashamed to confess that they Still wanted something to open them? could any but Villains & fools say that four years ago they didn't know all this? I shall notwithstanding appearances, despair of a right State of affairs till the People by some awful acts silence these Traitors or expel them from the Country. Adieu — my Dr. Sir — Prosperity & health attend — I wont say Health & Fraternity, because it is too Jacobinical.”

After he had full news from the United States of the measures which were planned to show the country's resentment of France's conduct which was shown in the famed X. Y. Z. dispatches, Smith wrote again on June 23:

“You see by my writing again so soon after my last that I am not so unreasonable as to expect letter for letter, consid'g myself very fortunate when our friendship can call your attention from the great & arduous duties of your Station for a short moment towards Lisbon. I have been for some days past reading with

a mixture of delight & indignation our newspapers & the debate in the House of Reps. some of which would have infallibly made me sick if I had not found an Antidote in the noble address & answers with which the papers so honorably abound & in some most excellent & wise measures which the magnanim. perseverance of a few good men has accomplished. I am delighted with the Volunteer Corps the extension of probation from 5 to 14 years,<sup>5</sup> the equipment of Vessels — these are grand specimens of real American spirit, had they been adopted at the extraor. Session, when you recommended measures of a similar complexion we shod. now have secured our object with France; it is most evident that energy in our govt. & unan'y in the citizens can alone bring that gov't to reason, & that when they see we are serious in resistance, they will show a conciliaty. disposition: they are too wise to go to war with America; I have no fear of a war with France, I fear them more *dona ferentes* & my great apprehension now is that they will wheedle us into a baneful fraternity; there is still so much french nonsense lurking about America that very little whining & coaxing may bring about those ridiculous affections which have been so near ruining us. this is the more alarming when we see so much said by those whose authority is dangerous in such a case, about those warm affections & attachments & sympathies & "ligaments of the heart" & C & C what in the name of God have we got by all this whining, which was bad enough some years ago, but appears to me pernicious in the extreme at this hour? can't the suaviter in modo be maintained by decent & mild language without this everlasting cant about our sensibilities & our love and our ardour & all this love sick nonsense? & why perpetually confessing our dread of war & our depreciation of its calamities & that we are ready to agree to any thing to avert its horrors, short of a sacrifice of our independence. — do these people see no horrors no calamities in french rule and tryanny — & the question lies in a nut shell — it is war, or misery under french oppression — where is the man, not a fool or a vile Jacobin, who would not rather risk all his property & his life in an honorable & glorious struggle than ex-

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<sup>5</sup>The new naturalization law.

pose both to the atrocious Dominion, inevitable from submission? All these professions, all these depreciations have no other effect than to harden the hearts of the Directory & to convince them that we dread them now as much as we loved them formerly." . . .

Smith gave his views as to the proper course for the United States to pursue towards France in a letter written on Nov. 18, 1789, in which he refers to the loss of the Toulon fleet, that is probably to Nelson's victory at the battle of Aboukir of the Nile:

"After reading in the Papers that Congress had resolved to raise standing armies & provisional armies & volunteer Corps & C & C, I gave up all hopes of getting a Letter from you during the alarm of Invasion, sensible that with all your wanted activity, your time would not suffice for even your official duties.

"Wishing you well thro' all these arduous toils, I only presume to request a short line from you when you are satisfied that the Country is perfectly safe against external & internal foes.

"The Great Nation have now so much on their hands near at home & have succeeded so badly with their late invasions that I think you may for the present lay aside your fears of invasion. They mean now to have recourse to coaxing & dividing the people of America — the story now is that they never meant to quarrel with us, that they have always shown the greatest affection for us, but that *Pitt* & his Guineas & *John Adams* with his faction are combined to drive America into war to bring about a close alliance with England; that France is on her part & always has been very desirous to terminate all differences between the sister Repubs., In order to make this Tale go down in France & impose on their Slavish Allies, they fabricate intelligence from America, which is printed in their papers, some specimens of which I send by this conveyance to the Secry. of State. — They are now well convinced that they can do us no injury & that their cause is daily losing ground in the U. States, but they are stupidly taking the very course the most likely to irritate & widen the breach; deceived by their intolerable vanity & by the false intelligence of their partizans & they still assert that the op-



position to them is merely that of a party, headed by J. A. : latterly their Gazettes begin to hold the same language about Turkey; they say that the G. Seignor has been duped by the intrigues of Pitt & has been forced into a declaration of war against them, of which he will soon repent, & then gravely tell a ridiculous story, that the English Ambassr. at Constante. set fire to the City on which occasion it is customary for the Grand Sr. to go abroad & ride about the streets on horseback, & then a mob prepared for the purpose with Pitt's guineas shouted war with the French, that the G. S. was frightened & promised the populace he wou. declare war agst. the French. It is curious to see them abusing *John Adams* & the *Grand Seignor* at the same time nearly in the same manner; the fact is that abuse is the principle weapon they can wield agst. Turkey and the U. S. they fear a war with both, knowing they can't hurt them; yet at the time that they insult the constituted authorities, they profess great love for the two Nations; in that true spirit of inconsistency & folly, which characterizes all their proceedgs., while their Gazettes printed under the eye of the Directory contain sarcasms & lampoons about the G. Seignor, they have assured his Ambassador at Paris that he & his Suite shall continue to be respected tho the French Minister and all their Consuls are imprisoned in Turkey: this is a proof of their fear; how differently would they have acted towds. the smaller neighbouring powers? thus, in the same spirit, notwithstg. all our hostile measures, their conduct is placid and gentle towards us (except continuing to capture our Vessels) at least in language — they took off the Embargo, to show their reluctance for war, & it's said, have sent a proposal to our govt. to renew the negotiation in some neutral country — had they not dreaded a serious rupture with us, how they would have bounced on hearing of only the mildest of our acts against them?

“The destruction of their Toulon fleet was a severe blow — five of the prizes are here, & (by way of compliment to me I presume) the *Franklin* is anchored immedy. before my house: She is a very fine ship, but dreadfully battered. They have since lost the Hoche, line of battle ship & some frigates on their way to Ireland, & may they go on losing in the same way till

they learn to do Justice to the rest of the world & particy. our Country is the prayer of Yours very sincy."

All was not serious even in those warlike times and in a letter sent on Dec. 22, Smith shows the sportive side of diplomacy:

"The Portuge. Ambassador, with his Confessor, Secy. of Legation private Secy. & a suite of sixteen persons is returned from Paris where he had the pleasure of spending a *fortnight*—some years ago an ingenious writer published a little work called "the *Quinzaine* Anglaise;" it was the brief history of a young milord Anglais who in a fortnights sojourn in Paris spent all his fortune & ruined his constitution; the Portugese quinzaine would be I think equally instructive & entertaining — as a specimen — the Secy. of Legation who is an acquaintance of mine dined with me yesterday & among a variety of curious anecdotes told me the following. I asked him if he had seen my old friend T— & what he thought of his abilities? oh yes said he I dined in company with him at the — Minister's, where he arrived with a lady in his carriage to whom he is attached at half after five, & after dinner we all played at Colin maille, (blindman's buff); I was first blinded & I soon caught the C. M. — '*ex pede Herculem*;' now what think you of a parcel of grave Ambassadors, &c &c playing very innocently at blindman's buff—and yet was not the game analogous to many of the parties? what are most modern negotiations but a game of blindman's buff, where each party, hoodwinked in turn, is groping in the dark to catch his adversaries?"

Shortly before Congress assembled McHenry wrote Smith concerning the subjects on which the President's speech would touch and in answer on Feb. 2, 1799, Smith expressed even stronger sentiments than before against the French:

"After your Letter which I last answered I did not flatter myself with so early a further proof of your friendship as I recd. by yours of 30th Nov., in wch you gave me a pleasing anticipation of the Speech. Since reading that, I have recd. the Speech itself & the answers of the two houses; they are just what they

ought to be on the hypothesis that war ought to be declared, for which I presume good reasons exist, tho I confess the policy of it is not so obvious to me.

“It has occurred to me, in contemplg. the subject that we shod. be placed, by a declarn of war, in a much more eligible situation than we are now in; 1st. the govt. would carry into full operation the Act concerning Alien Enemies, 2d the measures of defence would be more vigorous, concentrated & united & the national spirit more directed to one great object, abandoning domestic dissentions, 3dly. the Commerce of the U. S. wod. be more protected — at present, our Vessels sail about the European Seas with little or no protection & multitudes of them are captured & condemned; not being in a state of war, our merchants & captains vainly flatter themselves that muster rolls & registers will protect them, & notwithstg. the examples before their eyes, the delusion continues; they catch at every silly story, or paragraph in a letter or newspaper & are perpetually cajoled by the delusive promises of the French agents. The elections in the Southern States afford much consolation for some disgraceful events; I see you are likely to have some trouble with Kentucky & Virginia, which the agents of the Directory wish to convert into an American La Vendée & when schemes are ripe to make the medium of their attack on our liberties. In this mode they began with Switzerland, exciting rebellion in the Valais & then marching troops to assist the friends of liberty:— tho I have no doubt of their designs, I don’t fear the result — you have wisdom & foresight in the gov’t & a spirit of independce. in the people which will frustrate these nefarious schemes. The agents of France, finding that love for that country is no longer the order of the day in the U. S., change their conduct — preserving their ambition, tho cloaked under exterior professions of friendship, they will excite sedition & rebellion, under pretence of oppression, as in Ireland, & when they have inspired a portion of the people with a hatred of their own govt. then they’ll offer aid: I hope these views are now well understood in America: There will be no fear of an invasion, unless the above plan succeeds; sho’d the discontents spread along the western fron-

tier, without doubt an attack will be made in that quarter: with these apprehensions, an army of regulars is necessary — nay indispensable, but the shortness of the session & other causes will, I fear, leave the requisite measures very incomplete. At a late entertain. given at Madrid by the French Ambassador, Col. Humphries was not invited, but classed with the Sardinian & Neapoln. ministers whose respective Sovereigns are probably by this time banished to Sicily & Sardinia to end their days in obscurity. So much for pacific professions!—

“I see by the late French papers that the minister of war, complains sadly of desertions; he says, the conscripts march fast enough, when called out, but that they desert immedy. after. The minister of finance. on his side complains of the emptiness of the Treasury — more plunder must be sought — they have already ransacked Piedmont, they’ll probably soon have Naples, & then they’ll try their hands at Spain & Portugal. — In the meantime, my dr Sir go on organizing your “gros bataillons” or our turn will come next.”—

In the last letter of the series, written on Dec. 26, 1799, Smith alludes with regret to the victory of the Republicans in Pennsylvania by which Thomas McKean, the Republican candidate, was elected governor. He also refers to Adams’ new mission to France and hopes that it may succeed, alluding pleasantly to Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut, one of its members. A request is made that George Izard be made Secretary of Legation. He was a lieutenant in the army and Smith had frequently urged his promotion.

“Your letter which was delivd. to me by Govr. Davie, tho it contained some disagble. intelligence respecting our domestic affairs, could not fail to give me much pleasure by evincing to me the continuance of your friendship, which I so much value. I was much flattered to find that, in the midst of your important & numerous duties, you were desirous of manifesting that friendship by sending me those interesting details, which you knew would be so gratifying to my curiosity.

“I lament exceedy. the turn the election took in Pensylva. &

find no consolation but in the hope that it will stimulate our friends to greater exertions in future. With respect to the mission to France, without recurring to useless speculations as to its original propriety & satisfied that it owes its birth to the purest principles of patriotism, We must now hope that a speedy general peace or a radical change in the principles of the French rulers will be the means of soon uniting all our friends in its approbation. — Opposition to or condemnation of it can certainly now render no benefit to our country; I therefore presume our friends by this time acquiesce in it. The last revolution in France seems to reject jacobinic & to lean sharply towards monarchic principles; whether it will progress in that train or be subject like all the former to a Reaction I will not yet venture to say — it is undoubtedly bottomed on more real power than any of its predecessors. Some think Bonaparte will prove in the end a General Monck, others that he will act the part of Oliver Cromwell — time will discover; at any rate, as far as relates to us, I trust that our Connecticut Oliver, aided by his colleagues, will be more than a match for the Corsican Oliver. — After a long State of suspense & uncertainty, it seems finally resolved that my friend Murray's trip to Paris is to knock up mine to Constance. I have written Mr. M. that I bear him no grudge for this for, tho' my little talent is fast rusting in the scabbard, I lead a quiet, easy life — enough of the *Otium*, I will not add, *cum dignitate*: perhaps I should have remained more contented with this insipid & tranquil scene, had not my ambition been awakened by nominations to the Sublime Porte & projects of missions to the King of the two Sicilies & C & C or had the recollection occurred from time to time that I had the option between Holland & Portugal & chose the latter; I often review in my mind some conversations we had on this subject.

“I must now submit with a good grace to the course of events & be content with the present, without ceasing to hope for something better — whether I am to be exposed to Earthquakes, Plagues or volcanos, I shall be always grateful for what has been done.

“You know that my little chagrin was not a little increased

by the loss of my excellent friend Pickering — perhaps you don't know that I have offered his place to my brother in law, George Izard: can you possibly make any arrangement whereby he may serve me for a short time as Secretary, without losing his rank? You woud. render me much service—

Adieu—very sincy & truly yrs

W. S."

BERNARD C. STEINER.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.